

**REMARKS**

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

**Status of Claims:**

Claims 25-35 are currently being cancelled.

Claims 5, 7, 8, 14-19 and 23-24 are currently being amended.

No claims are currently being added.

This amendment and reply amends and cancels claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending and canceling the claims as set forth above, claims 5, 7, 8, 14-19 and 23-24 are now pending in this application.

**Objection to the Specification:**

In the Office Action, the specification was objected to because of a minor informality noted on page 12, line 4 of the specification. By way of this amendment and reply, that informality has been corrected.

**Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> Paragraph:**

In the Office Action, claims 25-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> Paragraph, as being indefinite, for the reasons set forth on pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action. Based on the amendments made to each of the presently pending independent claims 5, 7, 8 and 14-19 to respectively include the respective features of their dependent claims 25-35 and whereby those added features are in fully compliance with page 19 lines 2-10 of the specification, this rejection has been overcome.

**Claim Rejections – Prior Art:**

In the Office Action, claims 5, 7, 8, 14-19 and 23-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,504,776 to Yamaura; and 25-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamaura in view of U.S. Patent

No. 6,606,357 to Cobb. These rejections are traversed with respect to the presently pending claims under rejection, for at least the reasons given below.

With respect to the rejection of claims 25-35 based in part on the teachings of Cobb, and whereby the features of claims 25-35 have been included in each of the presently pending independent claims, the Office Action asserts that column 3, lines 17-28 of Cobb teaches that when the transmission band width is varied, a bit number of an error correction code used in signal transmission between the equipment and the counterpart equipment is changed from a current bit number. In reply, column 3, lines 17-28 of Cobb describes that in order to gain efficiency on a link at the expense of bandwidth is to use a lower-rate code, such as a rate 1/3 code instead of a rate 1/2 code. The rate 1/3 code signifies that 1 bit of “real” data is output for every 2 bits of error correction data, while the rate 1/2 code signifies that 1 bit of “real” data is output for every 1 bit of error correction data.

It is clear that this portion of Cobb does not teach or suggest changing a ratio of total bits to error correction bits of an error correction code used in signal transmission between the equipment and the counterpart equipment from a current ratio of total bits to error correction bits, while maintaining a same amount of data output per unit period by the error correction code. In other words, when the error correction rate is changed in the system of Cobb, the data output per unit period also changes, whereby this does not occur in the presently claimed invention.

Accordingly, since Yamaura does not teach or suggest the above features (as admitted in the Office Action), each of the presently pending independent claims under rejection is patentable over the combined teachings of Yamaura and Cobb.

**Conclusion:**

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to

charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date June 4, 2007

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